

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 14-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eguchi (US, 5,514,426) in view of Hasegawa et al. (US, 6,614,4910), Kanbe et al. (US, 4,709,994), and Takatori (US, 6,351,301).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claim 9 is amended to further define the invention. Claims 7, 13, and 20 are cancelled previously without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 14-16, and 19 are currently pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 14-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eguchi in view of Hasegawa et al., Kanbe et al., and Takatori. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 16, as previously presented, Applicants respectfully submit that Eguchi, Hasegawa et al., Kanbe et al., and Takatori whether taken singly or combined, fails to teach or suggest at least the features of “a liquid crystal injected between upper and lower plates maintains a monostable state”, “the liquid crystal is a ferroelectric liquid crystal of Half V-Switching mode”, “a tilted long axis of the liquid crystal is coincident with a transmission axis of at least one of the polarizers”, and the transmissive axis of at least one of the polarizers is at an angle within a range of 1 to 10 degrees with respect to an alignment direction of the aligned one of the upper and lower alignment films.” The Office admits on page 3 that

“Eguchi does not explicitly disclose that (1) a tile long axis of the liquid crystal (i.e., the optical axis of the liquid crystal molecules) is coincident with a transmission axis of at least one of the polarizers; (2) the transmissive axis of one of the polarizers is at an angle within 1 to 10 degree (preferably 3 to 7 degree) with respect to alignment direction of aligned one of the aligned films; and (3) the ferroelectric liquid crystal maintains a monostable state having half V-Switching mode.” As a result, the Office relies on Hasegawa et al. and Kanbe et al. because it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the liquid crystal display of Eguchi with the teachings of Hasegawa et al. and Kanbe et al., since the skilled in the art would be motivated for preventing the light leakage so as to obtain a higher contrast and more wide viewing angle display and for achieving a maximum contrast (Kanbe et al., col. 6, lines 48-66). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Applicants’ claimed invention relates to a liquid crystal display device including Half-V ferroelectric liquid crystal material that is maintained at monostable state by applying the DC voltage to the liquid crystal. However, the liquid crystal display device of Eguchi relates to a non Half-V switching mode ferroelectric liquid crystal device. In addition, Hasegawa et al. is completely silent about implementing Half-V ferroelectric liquid crystal material. Moreover, Kanbe et al. only discloses a ferroelectric liquid crystal having **bistable state**.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has pieced together three or four references to teach the claimed features. However, MPEP § 2143.01 (III) instructs “[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious

unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990).” MPEP § 2143.01 (III) further instructs that “[a]lthough a prior art device ‘may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so.’ *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992).” Applicants respectfully submit that the references do not provide a suggestion or motivation to combine **non Half-V** ferroelectric liquid crystal material of Eguchi with ferroelectric liquid crystal materials of Hasegawa et al. and Kanbe et al.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submits that the Office Action has not established *prima facie* case of obviousness and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

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In light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited prior arts, whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 16, and respectfully request the withdrawal of rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Moreover, Applicants assert that dependent claims 4-6, 8, 12, 14, and 19 are allowable at least because of their dependencies from the respective one of the allowable independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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